Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): A particulate composition suitable for administration to a subject by means of a needleless syringe, said composition comprising particles that comprise a biologically active agent and a biodegradable sustained-release material which controls release of the active agent to the subject following administration of the composition thereto, wherein said particles have a mean mass aerodynamic diameter of from about 20 ~~0.1~~ to about 75 ~~250~~ microns and an envelope density of from about 0.8 ~~0.1~~ to about 1.5 ~~25~~ g/cm^3.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended): The composition of claim 1 wherein ~~the mean mass aerodynamic diameter of the particles is from about 10 to about 100 microns,~~ less than about 10% by weight of the particles have a diameter which is 5 microns more or 5 microns less ~~that~~ than the mean mass aerodynamic diameter, the particles have an axis ratio of from about 3:1 to 1:1, ~~the envelope density of the particles is from about 0.8 to about 1.5 g/cm^3~~, and the particles exhibit less than about 25% reduction in mean mass diameter after delivery from a needleless syringe as determined in a particle attrition test.

Claim 3. (Cancelled).

Claim 4. (Original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of drugs, vaccines, oligosaccharides, peptides, proteins and nucleic acids.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended): The composition of claim 1 wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of poly(lactide), poly(glycolide), ~~poly(carpolactone),~~ poly(caprolactone), poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(lactide-co-glycolide) and poly(lactide-co-caprolactone).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The composition according to claim 1 which comprises a first set of particles comprising the biologically active agent in association with a first sustained-release material and a second set of particles comprising the biologically active

agent in association with a second sustained-release material, wherein said second sustained-release material releases the biologically active drug at a different rate than said first sustained-release material.

Claim 7. (Original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the particles are microcapsules comprising the biologically active agent encapsulated by a wall-forming sustained-release polymer material.

Claim 8. (Original): The composition of claim 1 wherein the particles are microspheres comprising a sustained-release polymer material.

Claim 9. (Original): A hermetically sealed single unit dosage or multidose contained adapted for use in a needleless syringe, said container comprising the composition of claim 1.

Claim 10. (Original): A needless syringe containing the composition of claim 1.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn): A method for delivering a biologically active agent to a subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing particles which have a mean mass aerodynamic diameter of from about 0.1 to about 250 microns and an envelope density of from about 0.1 to about 25 g/cm^3 and which comprise the biologically active agent in association with a sustained-release material which controls release of the active agent to the subject following delivery thereto;

(b) accelerating the particles to a velocity from about 100 to about 3000 m/sec; and

(c) impacting the particles onto a surface of the subject thereby causing the particles to penetrate the surface and enter the subject.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the mean mass aerodynamic diameter of the particles is from about 10 to about 100 microns, less than about 10% by weight of the particles have a diameter which is 5 microns more or 5 microns less that the mean mass aerodynamic diameter, the particles have an axis ratio of from about 3:1 to 1:1, the envelope density of the particles is from about 0.8 to about 1.5 g/cm^3, and the

particles exhibit less than about 25% reduction in mean mass diameter after delivery from a needleless syringe as determined in a particle attrition test

Claim 13. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the particles have a mean mass aerodynamic diameter of from about 20 to about 75 microns.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of drugs, vaccines, oligosaccharides, peptides, proteins and nucleic acids

Claim 15. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of poly(lactide), poly(glycolide), poly(carpolactone), poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(lactide-co-glycolide) and poly(lactide-co-caprolactone).

Claim 16. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the composition comprises a first set of particles comprising the biologically active agent in association with a first sustained-release material and a second set of particles comprising the biologically active agent in association with a second sustained-release material.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the particles are microcapsules comprising the biologically active agent encapsulated by a wall-forming sustained-release polymer material.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the particles are microspheres comprising a sustained-release polymer material.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the particles are administered to the subject at a speed of 200 meters/second or greater.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the biologically active agent comprises 1 to 99 weight percent of the particle.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the particles are administered to a skin of the subject.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the particles are administered to a tissue of the subject.

Claim 23. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the particles comprise two or more biologically active agents.

Claim 24. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the subject is an animal.

Claim 25. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the acceleration of the particles is effected by entraining the particles into a flow of moving gas.

Claim 26. (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11 wherein the acceleration of the particles is effected by displacing the particles with a shock wave.

Claim 27. (New): The composition of Claim 6 wherein the second set of particles comprises a biologically active agent different from that of the first set of particles.